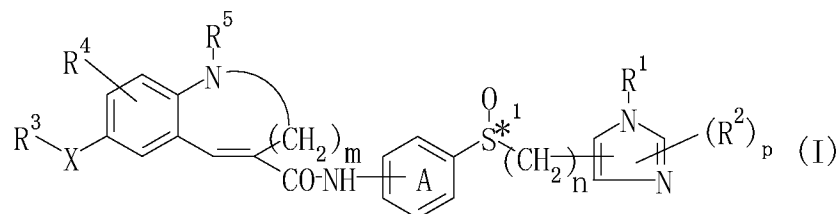


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing an optically active compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted aromatic group;

R^2 represents a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl group, ~~an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, an optionally substituted thiol group (the sulfur atom may be oxidized to form a sulfinyl group that may be substituted or a sulfonyl group that may be substituted), -~~
OH, OR, -SH, -SR, -SOH, -SOR, -SO₂H, -SO₂R, an optionally substituted amino group, an optionally substituted acyl group, an optionally esterified carboxyl group or an optionally substituted aromatic group;

R^3 represents an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered ring; R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl group, an optionally substituted lower alkoxy group or a halogen atom;

R^5 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, ~~-SO₂H, -SO₂R, an optionally substituted sulfonyl group,~~
an esterified or amidated carboxyl group or an optionally substituted acyl group;

X represents a bond or a divalent group containing a linear part constituted of 1 to 4 atoms;

the ring A represents a benzene ring which may be substituted with a halogen atom, a C₁₋₄ alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkoxy group which may be substituted with a halogen atom;

R, at each occurrence, is a substituent;

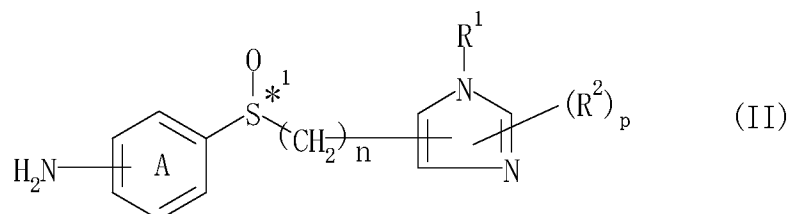
~~m is an integer of 1 to 5~~ 3;

n represents an integer of 0 to 3;

p represents an integer of 0 to 2; and

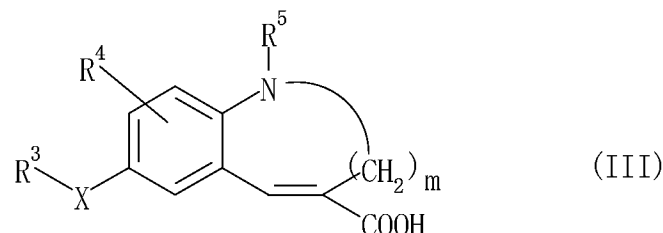
*¹ represents an asymmetric center,

or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting an optically active compound represented by the formula (II):



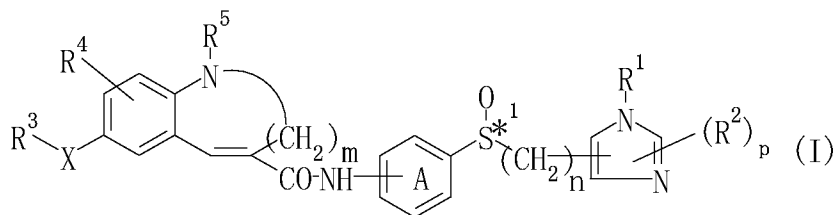
wherein each symbol is as defined above,

or a salt thereof, with a compound represented by the formula (III):



wherein each symbol is as defined above, a salt thereof, or a reactive derivative an acid chloride thereof, an acid bromide thereof, a mixed acid anhydride thereof, or an active ester thereof.

2. (Currently amended) A process for preparing an optically active compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted aromatic group;

R² represents a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl group, -OH, OR, -SH, -SR, -SOH, -SOR, -SO₂H, -SO₂R, ~~an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, an optionally substituted thiol group (the sulfur atom may be oxidized to form a sulfinyl group that may be substituted or a sulfonyl group that may be substituted),~~ an optionally substituted amino group, an optionally substituted acyl group, an optionally esterified carboxyl group or an optionally substituted aromatic group;

R³ represents an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered ring;

R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl group, an optionally substituted lower alkoxy group or a halogen atom;

R⁵ represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, -SO₂H, -SO₂R, ~~an optionally substituted sulfonyl group,~~ an esterified or amidated carboxyl group or an optionally substituted acyl group;

X represents a bond or a divalent group containing a linear part constituted of 1 to 4 atoms;

the ring A represents a benzene ring which may be substituted with a halogen atom, a C₁₋₄ alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkoxy group which may be substituted with a halogen atom;

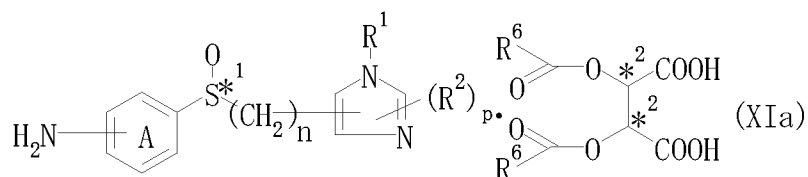
R, at each occurrence, is a substituent;

~~m is an integer of 1 to 5~~ 3;

n represents an integer of 0 to 3;

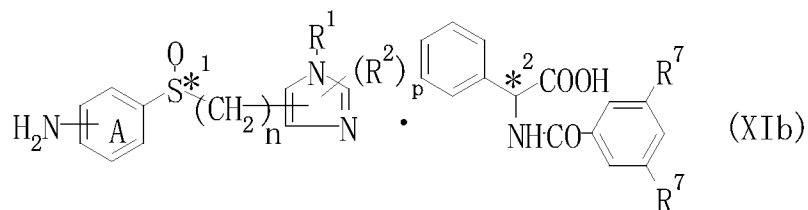
p represents an integer of 0 to 2; and

*¹ represents an asymmetric center,
or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting an optically active compound represented by the formula (XIa):

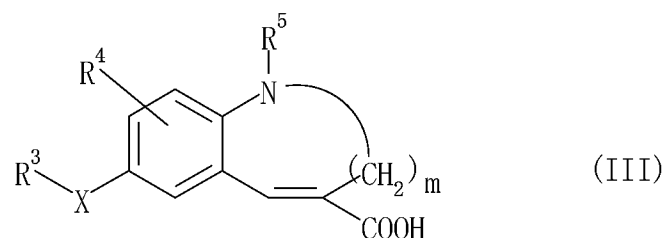


wherein R⁶ represents a methyl group, a phenyl group, a 4-methylphenyl group or a α -naphthyl group;

*² represents an asymmetric center; and
the other symbols are as defined above,
or an optically active compound represented by the formula (XIb):



wherein R⁷ represents a hydrogen atom, a chlorine atom or a nitro group; and
the other symbols are as defined above,
with a compound represented by the formula (III):



wherein each symbol is as defined above, a salt thereof or an acid chloride thereof, an acid bromide thereof, a mixed acid anhydride thereof, or an active estera reactive derivative thereof.

3. – 20. (Cancelled)